

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3850

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MO, AG, SS, FR, SP, OAU
SUBJECT: FONMIN DISCUSSES REGIONAL TENSIONS, PRAISES STATE OF RELATIO
NS
WITH SPAIN AND FRANCE

1. IN JULY 14 AFP INTERVIEW WITH GOM FONMIN LARAKI, FONMIN
GAVE WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS FIRST DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON GOM'S
POSITION ON OAU EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT. LARAKI VOWED THAT
MOROCCO WOULD "NEVER AGREE TO REOPENING DISCUSSIONS ON SAHARA,"
WHICH WAS "INTERNAL AFFAIR." HE SAID GOM PREPARED TO ACCEPT
DEBATE AT EXTRAORDINARY OAU SUMMIT ON "DETERIORATION OF SITUATION"
IN REGION AND ON "REGIONAL TENSIONS," BOTH OF WHICH CAUSED BY
ALGERIAN "INTERFERENCE." LARAKI ALSO SAID ALGERIA WOULD
PROBABLY ATTEMPT RAISE SAHARA AT COLOMBO, BUT THAT IT WOULD
FAIL, AS IT HAD AT PORT LOUIS.

2. AS FOR SITUATION IN SAHARA, FONMIN DESCRIBED IT AS "CALM,"
EXCEPT FOR SOME "ADVANCE DESERT POSTS" WHICH SUFFERED FROM
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OCCASIONSL INCURSIONS AND MININGS. KING'S RECENT ANNOUNCE-

MENT OF ELECTIONS, HE SAID, INCLUDED SAHARAN PROVINCES.

3. LARAKI DISCUSSED RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, REFERRING TO "GREAT SIMILARITY OF VIEWS" BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON "SECURITY OF THE REGION." LARAKI SAID HE HAD POSTPONED HIS TRIP TO MADRID, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JULY 14, DUE TO CHANGE IN MADRID GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE WOULD UNDERTAKE IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, NOTING THAT MIXED COMMISSIONS ACTIVELY WORKING TO REACH ACCORDS ON FISHING, COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED LAND, AND SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR FORMER EMPLOYEES OF SPANISH GOVERNMENT LIVING HERE. MADRID ACCORDS, LARAKI OBSERVED, HAD OPENED NEW PERSPECTIVES IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. FONMIN ALSO SINGLED OUT FRANCO-MOROCCAN RELATIONS AS HAVING "NEVER BEEN BETTER." THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS WHATSOEVER BETWEEN THE TWO. LARAKI SAID KING'S STATE VISIT TO FRANCE WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF YEAR AND THAT DISCUSSIONS WERE "ACTIVELY" UNDERWAY TO THIS END.

5. COMMENT: WHILE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF LARAKI INTERVIEW WAS TO EXPOSE GOM VIEWS ON UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS WHERE SAHARA A LIKELY ISSUE, AN INTERESTING FEATURE WAS LARAKI'S REVELATION OF GOM PLANS TO INCLUDE SAHARA IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS. STAGE IS THUS SET TO BLAME ALGERIA IF SAHARANS ARE NOT ABLE TO "EXPRESS" THEMSELVES DUE TO LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN SAHARA.

6. WITH REGARD TO EXTRAORDINARY OAU SUMMIT, LARAKI'S REMARKS ARE A CURIOUS REITERATION OF GOM PUBLIC POSITION THAT PROBLEM IS ONE OF ALGERIAN/MOROCCAN DIFFERENCES, NOT ONE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR SAHARAN PEOPLE. THIS POSITION ALREADY FAILED TO ATTRACT SUPPORT AT PORT LOUIS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION. GOM'S IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS THAT PORT LOUIS RESOLUTION CALLING FOR EXTRAORDINARY SESSION (FOR TEXT SEE ALGIERS 1764) FOCUSES ON BOTH SAHARA AND SELF-DETERMINATION THEREFORE GOM, PRESUMABLY IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH MAURITANIA, WILL PROBABLY ATTEMPT TO SET PRECONDITIONS WHICH WILL EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDE HOLDING OF SUMMIT.
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